

Lifetime Achievement - Scot X. Esdaile

Scot X. Esdaile was born and raised in the Greater New Haven area. Mr. Esdaile developed an early passion in public affairs and politics as a young adult. He worked on several national campaigns as a young activist for prominent change agents such as Rev. Jesse Jackson, Doug Wilder, former Governor of Virginia, and former Mayor John Daniels during the time span of 1988-1992. In 1992, Mr. Esdaile founded Elm City Nation, an at-risk youth organization geared towards community development and the goal of eradicating gang violence.

Mr. Esdaile has served as Commissioner of the New Haven Coliseum, President of the Freddy Fixer Parade and the Chairman of the Black Expo. He has organized numerous rallies and protests related to issues of health care, social injustice and inequities in the criminal justice system. He also was a galvanizing force in the statewide support for the Million Man March.

Mr. Esdaile has demonstrated unwavering commitment to social justice through his work with the National Association of the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). He served as the President of the Greater New Haven NAACP Branch for 7 years, and in 2004, was elected President of the Connecticut State Conference of NAACP Branches; at that time he was the youngest State President in the country. He has received numerous awards and tributes for his many years of public, community and civil rights service. Mr. Esdaile is serving his 4th term on the NAACP National Board of Directors representing from Delaware to Maine and is the recipient of the Kelly Miller Alexander, Sr. "the National State Conference President of the Year Award".

As President of the Connecticut State Conference of NAACP Branches, Mr. Esdaile has expanded its programming on a statewide and regional level that brings merit to the objectives of the organizations. Some recent accomplishments are the record attendance breaking NAACP Harmony Classic football game between Central Connecticut State University and North Carolina Central University featuring the Marching Sound Machine (Sept. 2008) and The Great Debate at Yale University, where Howard University and Yale University debated relevant social issues in a filled to capacity venue (2008).

Mr. Esdaile has also been catalyst for legislation in the areas of health care, criminal justice and political action. He was instrumental in getting a bill passed in 2008, to establish a 29 member Minority Health Advisory Council to eliminate disparities in health status among the state's multicultural, multilingual and multiethnic communities, abolishing Connecticut's death penalty in 2012 and passing the nationally recognized Second Chance and Excessive Force Bills in 2015. Mr. Esdaile is employed by the New Haven Board of Education and is a dedicated advocate for children. He is committed to empowering youth to become future leaders and believes that early intervention and prevention programs are the key to stabilizing our younger generations to come. He is a graduate of Hamden High School. He graduated Virginia State University in 1987 with a degree in, Public Administration.

Mr. Esdaile resides in Hamden, Connecticut with his wife Adrien, and their youngest son Quran. His daughter Imani is a junior at Hampton University & his oldest son, Little Scot, lives in Atlanta, GA.